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SELECTED MILITARY TRANSLATIONS ON EASTERN EUROPE

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FOREWORD

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THE WORK OF THE TECHNICAL-ECONOMIC COUNCIL IS EFFICIENT

[The following is a translation of an article by Captain St. Koychev in Narodna Armiya (People's Army), Vol XVI, No 3596, Sofia, 15 April 1960, page 2.]

The rationalizers of the "G. Benkovski" Higher People's Military Air School are participating actively in the struggle of the school's personnel to achieve high training standards for the students, to master aviation techniques and equipment, and to utilize these properly. Their contribution to the study and perfecting of material equipment and to the clarification of such research is constantly increasing.

These workers are developing many instruments for the school, including portable tripods, model airplanes, motors and apparatus of various sorts, and are drafting diagrams, plans, etc. A good example is found in the rationalization of teacher G. Velikov, which has been of great use in school work. He developed a model which demonstrates clearly and simply Tsiolkovski's concept of developing means of transport on the basis of the principle of air cushions.

Another aid which has been of value in the training of student pilots is a simulator which indicates the gyrohorizon of aircraft. Its developer was Captain Nedkov. This instrument makes it possible for a pilot to practice on-the-ground maneuvers required by various gyrohorizon readings.

A firing simulator developed by Officer Ivanov is another efficient means of training students. It helps in teaching them air gunnery, giving them practice in aiming. This develops practical habits in aiming through ground work, obviating the need to expend fuel on air practice.

Rationalizations during the past school year resulted in the establishment of three new workshops: aircraft piloting, radio navigation, and radio technology. These are equipped with assorted models, simulators and charts skillfully constructed. Materials which were readily available were used, and this equipment was therefore very inexpensive to produce. For example, it has been calculated that this equipment for the navigational workshop alone, has been purchased ready-made, the cost would have exceeded 30,000 leva. As it is, no more than 2,000 leva was spent. Credit is due to the rationalizer Major Vulchanov for his initiative and inventiveness, and to the enthusiastic aid rendered him by his students.

The creative efforts of rationalizers Iliev, Ivanov, Lechev and Sredrev were also instrumental in establishing a study center for the training of students in aviation-technical subjects. There are several

training installations including models of various types of planes, simulators for use in practicing with the various aircraft instruments, a model of an aircraft fuel system, an apparatus demonstrating the jet engine principle, etc.

The efforts of the Technical-Economic Council under the chairmanship of Officer Gargov deserve great credit for the active rationalizations at the school. It has organized, manages and guides the general rationalization program. Its organizational measures are planned in advance. Annual, quarterly and monthly schedules of work are drafted.

What measures are being planned and implemented by the Technical-Economic Council to promote the rationalization movement at this school?

Each year, rationalization exhibits are prepared and displayed. These are opened to the public on the school's Patron's Day to demonstrate the achievements of the preceding year. This has become a fine tradition at the school. A glance through the remarks in the visitors' register for the exhibit evidences the great interest with which it is welcomed each year.

On the initiative of the Technical-Economic Council, the exchange of experience in the field of rationalization was promoted by a visit to other military schools in the country for the school's best rationalizers. This project contributed greatly to the expansion of the scope of rationalizations, and helped to familiarize individuals with many new ideas.

The work done by the Council toward increasing the number of rationalizers has also been most effective. Numerous talks have been given to military personnel who have expressed a desire to become rationalizers. Advice has also been available. The meetings of the Council have as one of their purposes the stimulation of each rationalizer to even greater activity through the encouragement and approval of plans. Even when proposals submitted are not accepted, consideration and caution are employed in the rejection. When the weaknesses of the suggestion have been pointed out, its originator is encouraged to correct them.

The Technical-Economic Council does not stop with the approval of proposals. It follows their implementation and practical application with interest, and concerns itself with the usefulness of each rationalization utilized.

WHY DOES THE PARTY BUREAU HURRY?

[The following is a translation of an article by Podpolkovnik (Lieutenant Colonel) G. Dzhodzhov in Narodna Armiya (People's Army), Vol XVI, No 3606, Sofia, 27 April 1960, page 3.]

Discipline is the basis of all success. This fact is well-understood by the communists in the unit commanded by Officer Yanchev, whether they implement this principle or not. At the instigation of the commanding officer, the Party bureau of the unit decided to discuss the question of improving discipline and vigilance with the whole of the unit's Party organization. Although a date had been set for this discussion, the Party bureau decided to bring the matter up at an earlier meeting. What was their hurry? The facts will speak for themselves.

What Are The Facts?

Both in the report submitted by the Party bureau and in the statements made by Communist Party members, great concern on the subject of discipline was evidenced. Violations of discipline and regulations and shortcomings in the performance of guard duty are serious symptoms. The bureau was obliged to take rapid measures in order to aid the commanding officer in preventing still more serious errors on the part of his personnel. It is true that no extreme infractions had been noted, but should one wait until the situation is extreme before a Party meeting is called? It is essential that communists should take preventive rather than remedial measures. However, some communists unfortunately failed to understand this principle, and insisted that the situation involved only minor shortcomings.

There have been many shortcomings in guard duty and garrison assignments in the company commanded by Captain Lilov. Can the fact that such officers as Kolev, Dimitrov and Trendafilov of the battalion headquarters, and certain company officers as well, insist in taking over their drivers' work be regarded as minor? Even though no accidents or breakdowns have as yet occurred, the continuation of such violations of regulations will certainly result in some. The most serious criticism which was justifiably discussed by the Party bureau with considerable gravity concerned the poor example which communist officers set for their subordinates in this way. It is easy to see why discipline among the drivers is unsatisfactory.

Is the failure of certain noncommissioned officers to appear for evening inspection a minor matter? Some communist officers, when on duty, spend their time in their offices rather than fulfilling the whole of their duties. Communist Private Dimitrov pointed out in his statement that such actions throw the schedule off as well. For example,

the quartermaster platoon appears to feel that the morning reveille is sounded too early. They do not want to get up along with the other soldiers. If a noncommissioned officer were at his post, and an Officer of the Day were seeing to his duties, such incidents could not occur.

Frequently soldiers adapt their behavior to the temperament of the officer on duty. If he is demanding, everything is done properly: the soldiers arise promptly, the messhall is quiet, and classes proceed normally. However, if the officer is lax, discipline is violated. Strictness is a prerequisite to firm discipline, as was stressed by many communists. "I have not punished a single soldier in my platoon in two months," stated Lieutenant Tsekov. "This was because I checked regularly on them. When I assigned a task, I immediately saw to its completion. The soldiers grew accustomed to this method, and now even when I do not check on them I can be sure work will be properly done."

In the company of which Comrade Narliev is the Party secretary, the Party organization dealt with the problem of discipline, and as a result violations have been cut to a minimum. "For two years," said Comrade Narliev, "our officers have been prompt. Their personal example has had its effect on the soldiers. It is seen in drilling, parade reviews, and their attitude in complying with regulations." Where communists have taken prompt action, the results are evident. It has been made clear by the statements made that discipline is poor where punishment is liberally dispensed. Second Lieutenant Stefanov has been meting out punishment for two months without praising a single soldier. "There is no one deserving of praise," he stated. At first glance, the disagreements between "younger" and "older" soldiers, between soldiers and the commanders of detachments, etc. may seem insignificant. Commanding officers usually try to stay out of such quarrels. But why does the Komsomol organization remain idle in this connection? Where is the needed esprit de corps?

The Party organization also devoted attention to such incidents as the drinking of communist officer Pruchikapov and the flippant behavior whereby he undermines respect for himself as an officer. Nor did it ignore the violations of the regulations for care of weapons and certain reprehensible actions on the part of Captain Pisankunov, who is otherwise a fine officer.

Other shortcomings and violations of discipline, not so characteristic, also exist. But the main point is that communists must face up to such matters and evidence a desire to correct shortcomings. That criticism and selfcriticism have been displayed is a positive development. The role of such analysis is properly appreciated. Officers Dimitrov and Ivanov profoundly analyzed their own shortcomings, and it was felt that they recognized their mistakes. There is no better guarantee of eliminating weaknesses than the realization of them by those who commit errors.

What are the reasons and where should they be sought?

Although in the report and the statements no great errors in discipline were reported, the effort to clarify the reasons for the violations which have occurred was evident. There are still some company and platoon commanders as well as staff officers who fail to understand the decisions of the October Plenum. Rather than making stern demands of their men, they depend too much upon the Party bureaus and organizations. Where commanding officers properly rely upon the Party organizations, participate in and guide Party life, discipline is good. It was also stressed that many company and platoon commanders leave the problem of discipline for section commanders to cope with. This is improper. This is because the latter officers have neither the training nor the disciplinary authority needed to deal with this important task. An eloquent example of what happens when such matters are left to section commanders was provided by the administrative platoon. Captain Kyosev left even the granting of leaves to soldiers to the section commander.

Another shortcoming is the failure of commanding officers to make firm and constant demands upon their men. Some attempt to increase respect for themselves by leniency and a liberal attitude. Senior Lieutenant Mollov cannot handle his soldiers. He simply shrugs the matter off. However, his noncommissioned officer, who is strict and very demanding, has properly resolved all the problems he has encountered. "The fact that we sometimes classify our subordinates in groups is unfortunate," stated Captain Dimitrov. "When the guilty party is an officer, we may remain silent, or if we draw his attention to it, it is with a thousand apologies. We are stricter with our sergeants, and with the common soldier, we are extremely severe."

Is it not true that the question of discipline concerns not only the privates but noncommissioned officers as well? If they are properly disciplined, the problem is nearly resolved. Frequently, however, commanding officers seek to place blame on privates but will not consider that due his platoon or company commander. These are the men responsible for such actions. This is an error frequently committed by Captain Pisankunev, who, rather than dealing with his soldiers through their direct superiors, gives his orders and instructions direct to subordinate commanders and the soldiers themselves.

Another failing is a disregard of the importance of the personal example set by communists and commanding officers. The soldiers in the barracks are there not only for military training but for education as well. A soldier leaves the army as a man, having matured and cast off many of his previous failings. In this connection he must have the help of his commanding officers, the Party and Komsomol organizations, and the entire military staff.

At the close of the meeting, the communists stayed behind to comment on the sincerity with which all matters had been discussed, and on the great enthusiasm on the part of all concerned for an improvement in discipline. These attitudes will aid both Captains Pisankunev and Stoykov, company commanders, to improve their work.

It should also be noted that, as was pointed out by the head of the Political Department, matters must not be allowed to rest here. It is now that action is needed. That is the reason for the haste of the Party bureau in dealing with this problem.

Was the Party bureau justified in hurrying the discussion of this question? Of course, it was. There was no time to be lost.

The concern evidenced by the communists, the bold criticism and selfcriticism, the sincerity and bravery they displayed, are the proof that they will find the strength to improve discipline in all units and to increase vigilance, thus honorably completing their assigned tasks.

CERTAIN RIGHTS OF RESERVE OFFICERS AND CIVILIAN EMPLOYEE-PENSIONERS

[The following is a translation of an unsigned article in Narodna Armiya (People's Army), Vol XVI, No 3607, Sofia, 28 April 1960, page 3.]

Question: When the strength of the Bulgarian People's Army was reduced, I was mustered out and joined the reserve with pension rights. Soon afterward, I fell ill. A medical examination at a section polyclinic revealed that I was seriously ill. The doctors recommended back treatments. I requested a permit to stay at a resort through the Sanatoria-Resorts Administration but was refused. This was because as an officer and at present I have not been a trade union member. The people's soviet also refused me, as they give priority to the disabled. The military hospital would not accept me either for treatment or baths, as I am not on active military duty. Please instruct me as to how I can obtain a permit for a bath cure at a Bulgarian resort, either free or at a discount.

By Lieutenant Colonel, Reserve, G. Laskov

Answer: The problem raised by Comrade Laskov is of vital importance not only to him personally but to many other reserve officers and former civilian employee-pensioners.

One group of reserve officer-pensioners is covered, in such a situation, by Article 66 of the regulation governing military service in the Officer's Corps. It provides that reserve officers with twenty years of service may take cures at military hospitals and sanatoria at the expense of the Ministry of People's Defense. However, they will be assigned to sanatoria only on the basis of a permit from the Central Military Medical Commission with the approval of the Medical Service of the People's Army. They may also stay at rest homes belonging to the Ministry of People's Defense under conditions similar to those specified for officers on active duty. However, such advantages are not enjoyed by all reserve officer-pensioners -- only those who meet the requirements set forth above.

Another group of reserve officer-pensioners -- those with less than twenty years of service, as well as civilian employees -- is not entitled to those facilities. They are not entitled to permits for bath treatments or rest at balnearic sanatoria of the Sanatoria-Resorts Administration, either free or at reduced rates, as they are not members of a trade union organization.

In view of this situation, and with the purpose of rendering aid to the latter group of persons, the executive bureau of the Central Council of Trade Unions, by virtue of a decision date 15 April 1959, which was published in Bulletin Number 5 of 1959 of the Central Council of Professional Unions, made it possible for them to take memberships in trade union organizations. Article 4 of that decision states that "Pensioners who are former members of the staff of the People's Army or Militia may become members of the trade union organizations of civilian blue and white collar workers at the various ministries and their units, the Voluntary Organization for Defense Cooperation, etc."

Due to the numerous inconveniences which might result from the admission of officers and civilian workers as members of the trade union organizations of civilian employees of units for which the former once worked, the Central Committee of the Trade Union of Workers in Administrative Establishments and Communal Enterprises voiced the desire of the Central Council of Trade Unions to expand the interpretation of Article 4 of the above-mentioned decision on the admission of pensioners as trade union members by issuing, in Letter II-1200/12 April 1960, the following instructions to okrug trade unions:

a) Pensioners who are former members of the staff of the People's Army or Militia or civilian blue and white collar workers in the various branches of the Ministry of People's Defense or the Ministry of the Interior who, prior to their service with these administrations, were employed by other enterprises or establishments may become members of the trade union organizations of such enterprises and establishments.

b) Those who were not employed prior to their service with the Ministry of People's Defense or the Ministry of the Interior, including those who previously worked elsewhere than as set forth above, may, after being pensioned, become members of the trade union organizations of the city and village obshtina people's soviets.

c) In the cities of Sofia, Plovdiv, Varna and other large okrug centers, should it be inconvenient to accept as members in trade union organizations at enterprises or establishments pensioners who worked in the latter prior to their service with the Ministry of People's Defense or the Ministry of the Interior or in the trade union organizations of the city people's soviets, trade union organizations of pensioners from the People's Army and Militia and former blue and white collar workers in units of the Ministry of People's Defense or the Ministry of the Interior may be established as units in the trade unions of workers in administrative establishments and enterprises.

After acquiring trade union membership, pensioners who are former military personnel and civilian workers may utilize trade union rest homes and balnearic sanatoria of the Sanatoria-Resorts Administration at reduced rates.

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